

NEWS RELEASE



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GUEYDAN, LOUISIANA CITY ATTORNEY PROSECUTED FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS VIOLATIONS

City attorney exceeded daily duck limit and used lead shot

LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that the Geuydan, Louisiana city attorney EDWARD G. SAAL, age 52, from Gueydan, Louisiana pleaded guilty last week before United States District Magistrate Judge Mildred Methvin to federal charges of exceeding bag limit on migratory birds and possession of toxic shot while hunting waterfowl.

SAAL was sentenced to one year unsupervised probation and a total fine of \$2,170.00. Also, SAAL is prohibited from hunting during the year that he is serving his probation sentence.

On January 5, 2006, agents with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries conducting surveillance in the area where SAAL was hunting observed SAAL with thirteen ducks, which is seven duckds over the daily bag limit of six ducks. Additionally, SAAL was in possession of a shotgun loaded with lead shot. It is a federal violation to use lead shot in hunting

waterfowl.

In pleading guilty, SAAL admitted that he was aware of the federal waterfowl laws and was aware that he was violating the federal laws during his hunting expedition on January 5, 2006.

Sentencing in federal court is determined at the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Each count carried a maximum term of imprisonment of up to six months and a fine of up to \$15,000. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph T. Mickel.

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